



The 15th Annual Student Writing for Literacy Library Essay Contest

Sponsored by:

Friends of the San Diego Public Library
San Diego Public Library
San Diego Unified School District Library Media Teachers
KPBS & Lloyd Pest Control

OPEN TO: All public and non-public school **students** in grades 4, 8 & 10 who attend a school served by the San Diego Public Library system.

Topic Choices and Entry Forms which explain this year's guidelines for writing an essay are included in this e-mail and will also be posted on the Library Foundation web site:

<http://www.supportmylibrary.org/pub/Essay%20Contest%20intro%20flyer.pdf>

AWARDS: The writer of each essay will receive a Certificate of Participation and there will be BARNES & NOBLE book store gift certificates for winners at each school.

SCHOOL WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY, 2012

The school awards will be presented at individual branch libraries by the
Friends of the San Diego Public Library.

This contest supports The California Department of Education LITERACY STANDARDS (Reading and Writing)

The **DEADLINE** for receipt of entries is:

3:00 PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011

Four Grand Prize Winners at each level will be announced during a ceremony at
THE BALBOA PARK CLUB ON MAY 3, 2012.

Top prizewinners will each receive a monetary award

One special prize of \$500 will be awarded for the best overall essay
in memory of
JACK and CAROLYN WINER

QUESTIONS : Contact Wendy Gay, phlwen@pacbell.net OR 619- 697-2024 and/or Marian Day/Carleen Hemric, Friends of the Library, (619) 542-1724 Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-12:00

ESSAY TOPICS FOR THE 2012 STUDENT CONTEST

Once again KPBS is providing this Essay Contest with major topics based on themes found in the three 2012 "One Book, One San Diego" selections:

Sky of Red Poppies by Zohreh Ghahremani

This story, set in pre-revolutionary Iran, is about two young girls who become best friends even though they come from different social and economic classes. They are alike, until each makes a fateful decision: Shireen becomes politically active while Roya does everything possible not to draw attention to herself. The reader gets to see the consequences of the girl's decisions as they grow up, and grow apart because of the different paths they each have chosen.

Moloka'i by Alan Brennert,

Young Rachel Kalama is growing up in an idyllic loving Hawaiian family in the 1890's. Her dreams for the future are shattered at age seven by the discovery that she has leprosy. She is sent to a leper colony on the island of Moloka'i where her life, though shadowed by disease, isolation, and tragedy, is also one of joy, courage, and dignity. This story is not about death and despair, but is about life and hope, AND the strength of the human spirit.

Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea

19-year-old Nayeli, who works at a taco shop in her Mexican village, dreams about her father, who went to the US to find work. It soon dawns on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men left in her village; they've all gone north. While watching the movie *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men--her own "Siete Magnificos"--to come to her hometown and protect it from the banditos who plan on taking it over. This is the story of a determined young woman's quest to find herself on both sides of "the fence".

(1) As you read one of these books think about issues such as friendship, immigration, religious differences, culture 'clash', parental discord, consequences of war, sorrow, grief; then write an essay discussing how or where you experienced (or observed or read about) overcoming these issues. Use narrative techniques and follow the guidelines for size, spacing, font etc. outlined on the entry form.

If these titles do not 'work' for all readers we have included a list of similar titles in this mailing and have posted it at:

<http://www.supportmylibrary.org/pub/Essay%20Contest%20intro%20flyer.pdf>

Students may choose one of these titles to read, then discuss the same issues as stated above.

Students might also like to read one of the two previous One Book, One San Diego selections: *Outcasts United* and/or *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*:

OR you may discuss one of our traditional topics:

(2) Research and report on a famous library in history. What impact did it have on civilization?

California Literacy Standard:

2.3 - Information Report (Grades 4, 8, 10)

(3) If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?

California Literacy Standard:

2.3 - Information Report (Grades 4, 8, 10)

(4) What resources are available to you at your San Diego Public Library relating to your personal interests, such as your favorite sport, hobby, etc.? Describe.

California Literacy Standards:

2.3 - Information Report (Grade 4, 8, 10)

2.4 - Persuasive Composition (Grades 8 & 10)

For more information about "One Book, One San Diego go to kpbs.org/onebook

Local Branch Library: _____

Students: Attach this completed entry form to your essay. ***Keep a copy of your essay and this entry form for your records!***

Please put your name on all pages of your essay.

2012 STUDENT WRITING FOR LITERACY ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____
(First) (Last)

ADDRESS: _____
Number Street Zip

HOME PHONE: (____) _____

SCHOOL: _____ PHONE: (____) _____
YEAR ROUND yes _____ no _____

TOPIC OF ESSAY: _____
(Select from topics listed on the reverse of the contest flyer.)

TEACHER FULL NAME (print): _____
(First) (Last)

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Grades 8 & 10 entries **must be typed**; Grade 4 entries may be typed or **written legibly in ink**. All entries will be judged on originality and focus on the selected prompt by a panel of community members.

Schools submitting 1-10 entries will have one winner, 11-20 entries will have two winners, and above 20 entries will have three winners at the branch library.

Each branch library will then select and submit a first prize essay at each grade level for Grand Prize judging.

Suggested maximum length:

Grade 4: Suggested Maximum 250 words

Grade 8: Suggested Maximum 500 words; 12 pt. size type

Grade 10: Suggested Maximum 1000 words; 12 pt. size type

SIGNATURES:

We certify that this entry is a new original work and was developed and written by the student.

We give permission for the writer's essay and picture to be reproduced for promotional purposes including publication in the news media. We understand that the objective of this contest is student recognition and that there is no compensation beyond the prizes mentioned.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

To be officially entered, all signatures must be complete when the entry is received.

The DEADLINE for receipt of entries at your branch library is:

3:00 PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011

QUESTIONS CALL: Wendy Gay, SDUSD Librarian, Retired, (619) 697-2024 or phlwen@pacbell.net

Also: Marian Day/Carleen Hemric, Friends of the Library, (619) 542-1724 Tu-Th 8:00-12:00

This contest supports
THE CALIFORNIA CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR LITERACY